

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 00222 111716Z
ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2827

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JOINT EMBASSY/AID MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, EC
SUBJECT: USG LABOR PROGRAMS IN LATIN AMERICA

REF.: AIDTO CIRC A-583

1. REGRET TARDY RESPONSE; HOWEVER, ACTION PAPER ON ALEXANDER/
HAMMOND LABOR STUDY WAS LATE ARRIVNG MISSION.

2. WE CONCUR WITHOUT COMMENT IN AA/LA RECOMMENDATIONS NOS.
1, 3, 4B, 7B, 10, 12, 16 AND 20. ON PAGE 20 OF DRAFT, WE HAVE
NO COMMENT ON NOS. 13, 16 AND 18.

3. RE NON-ISSUES SECTION OF PAPER, WE CONCUR WITH AA/LA POSITION
APPROVING THEM ALL.

4. RE ISSUES FOR DECISION BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS (PAGE 20) WE
HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

7D. THE PRESENT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AIFLD, CPD, USAID,
LABOR ATTACHE AND AMBASSADOR ARE IN COMPLETE CONFORMITY WITH
ALEXANDER/HAMMON RECOMMENDATION AND IS VITAL TO THE PROPER
PERFORMANCE OF ALL PARTIES. HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT IN
SOME COUNTRIES, UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, USG FUNDING COULD BE
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USEFUL OUTSIDE AIFLD CHANNELS.

14. WE BELIEVE THE WORD "LIMITED" SHOULD BE IN THIS STATEMENT.
LARGELY BECAUSE OF SLOW PROMOTIONS, LABOR OFFICERS' MORALE IS LOW.
LATERAL ENTRIES SHOULD BE FEW AND AT LOW LEVELS TO PROTECT THE
MORALE AND PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS OF THE FOREGIN SERVICE LABOR
OFFICERS.

17. WE CONCUR. THERE ARE STRONG ELEMENTS WITHIN CLAT-AFFILIATED UNION WHICH SUPPORT FREE AND DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENTS AND WHICH ARE NON-MARXIST WHO WOULD WELCOME THE TYPE OF INVOLVEMENT REFERRED TO.

5. ON OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS, OUR COMMENT IS AS FOLLOWS: RECOMMENDATION 2 (PAGE 2). WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS RECOMMENDATION. IN ADDITION TO THE RATIONALE AS EXPRESSED BY AA/LA, WE FEEL THAT ANY AIFLD PROGRAM, BE IT FOR POLITICAL, INSTITUTION AND ATTITUDE BUILDING CONSIDERATIONS OR FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS, WOULD PROFIT GREATLY FROM THE TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITH DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES AS LISTED ON PAGE 3.

RECOMMENDATION 4A (PAGE 5). WE CONCUR IN THE POSITION OF THE AID OFFICE OF LABOR AFFAIRS ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED IN THE REPORT. WE DO NOT CONCUR IN THE ARGUMENTS AS CONTAINED IN THE "ALTERNATE POINT OF VIEW". AS LONG AS THE USG FINANCES AIFLD ACTIVITIES, WE CANNOT DENY OR SHAKE OFF IN-COUNTRY IDENTIFICATION OF AIFLD WITH THE USG. FURTHER, THE PRESENT RELATIONSHIP PROVIDES THE U.S. MISSIONS ABROAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN SOME OF THE MORE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE ISSUES WHICH ARE INHERENT IN AN EXTERNALLY FINANCED LABOR PROGRAM.

RRECOMMENDATION 6 (PAGE 7). IF AN AIFLD PROGRAM IS DISCONTINUED IN A COUNTRY, WE BELIEVE THAT AN EMBASSY LABOR AFFAIRS OFFICER CAN SERVE AS THE LINK TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH LOCAL LABOR GROUPS AND MAKE TRAINING RECOMMENDATIONS. TO THE EXTENT THAT SUCH OFFICER SPENDS A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME ON AID-RELATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LABOR MATTERS, AID SHOULD REIMBURSE THE EMBASSY ON A SHARED ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT (SAS) BASIS.

RECOMMENDATION 7A (PAGE 9). WE CONCUR, IN THE AA/LA RECOMMENDATION EXCEPT AS IT PERTAINS TO COUNTRIES WITHOUT AN ACTIVE AID MISSION. OUR EXPERIENCE HAS PROVED THAT A COMPETENT EMBASSY LABOR OFFICER CAN AND SHOULD BE BROUGHT IN EARLY IN THE AIFLD COUNTRY PROGRAM PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND CAN MAKE A VITAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROGRAM PROPOSAL.

RECOMMENDATION 7E (PAGE 12). WE DISAGREE WITH THE PREMISE THAT THERE IS A GREAT NEED FOR "A LOOSING OF THE BOND BETWEEN THE EMBASSIES AND AIFLD CPDS." THE EXAMPLE GIVEN -- ENDING COMMISSARY PRIVILEGES -- IS A NIGGARDLY ONE. LOCALLY, THE AIFLD CPD ENTERTAINS LABOR LEADERS FREQUENTLY. THE INCREASED CONTACT RESULTING MAKES FOR GREATER EFFECTIVENESS. IN THE END, THE USG WOULD HAVE TO PAY THE ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATION COSTS INHERENT IN BUYING ON THE LOCAL MARKET.

RECOMMENDATION 8 (PAGE 14). WE AGREE THAT FRONT ROYAL COURSES BE CONTINUED. HOWEVER, WE WOULD FAVOR AN AIFLD MOVE EVEN FURTHER TO OTHER, BROADER AREAS OF ASSISTANCE MENTIONED IN RECOMMENDATION 2 (PAGE 3).

RECOMMENDATION 19 (PAGE 17). PREVIOUSLY, THE MISSION FELT IT NEEDED TO BE KEPT BETTER INFORMED OF IAF PROJECTS CONSIDERED FOR ECUADOR. THE SITUATION HAS IMPROVED GREATLY. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO EITHER AIFLD OR IAF WORKING WITH THOSE CLAT-ASSOCIATED GROUPS AND OTHER LABOR ORGANIZATIONS INTERESTED IN FREE, DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENTS. HOWEVER, THE MISSION WOULD WANT TO BE CONSULTED AT THE INCEPTION OF ANY IAF PROGRAM PLANNING TO DEAL WITH ECUADOREAN LABOR (I.E., UPON RECEIPT BY IAF OF AN APPLICATION FROM AN ECUADOREAN LABOR ORGANIZATION).

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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